

PETE SUAZO UTAH ATHLETIC COMMISSION (PSUAC)
Monday, August 25, 2014

Attending: Commissioners: Richard Montanez, Taylor Leavitt, Leslie Reberg and Kevin Daniels (Teleconferencing). Director: Bill Colbert and guests Robert Wombacher (PSUAC Judge/Referee), Scott Bowler (Promoter), Rick Montoya (Manager) and Chris Pieper (Attorney General's Attorney)

Commissioner Montanez called the meeting to order.

Sign Per Diem Sheet

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2, 2014. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Bill provided the Commission with a financial report for the first month of this fiscal year. There is nearly \$356,000 of prospective revenue, \$65,200 in dedicated credits and non-lapsing curing of nearly \$132,900. Bill reported there is enough money in the budget for an assistant and to sponsor some training. Commissioner Montanez asked if the Commission can start accepting credit card payments with the cell phone application. Bill replied the State is looking for an affordable option to do it as well as paying on line. It is a work in progress.

Appeal of Bout Results – Koji Lehman vs Michael Dillard – Clash MMA 10 – June 14, 2014

Bill provided a video of the fight in question as well as a letter from Koji, Bill's perspective of the bout and a statement from the referee, Mr. Robert (Bobby) Wombacher. Commissioner Reberg asked Bobby Wombacher to review the fight for them, which he did. The video was viewed by the Commission in this meeting.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to deny the appeal. Commissioner Reberg seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Request to Amend Suspension Period – Nic McGinnis

Bill reported that Nic McGinnis was suspended for one year, effective November 2, 2013. Nic is asking that his suspension be reduced by two (2) weeks to allow him to fight in the Muay Thai Fall Brawl 3.

Commissioner Leavitt made a motion to deny the suspension amendment request by Nick McGinnis. Commissioner Daniels seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

ABC 2014 Conference Summary

Bill gave a summary of the conference. He felt the most valuable discussions were the medical discussions regarding concussions, UA's and prohibited substances. He provided the Commission with a copy of a presentation made by Dr. Gangliardi. There is more and more of an emphasis on concussions and traumatic brain injuries. Fighters need ample time to heal and recover. There is more risk of concussions associated with significant weight loss before a fight. Weight loss in general was also a concerning topic of discussion. There are many who support a second weigh-in to measure excessive weight loss before a fight. Bill mentioned there will be more diagnostic tools being developed to look at weight loss. Ringside physicians may be required to assess fighters to ensure they have not lost too much weight to safely compete.

Bill reported that the Association of Boxing Commissions (ABC) adopted recommendations to administratively suspend fighters who compete in any non-sanctioned events for 180 days and require them to recomplete all medicals.

Bill also reported that the ABC adopted recommendations made that all professional MMA contestants be required to have the same medical standards that professional boxers have. This recommendation does not affect the Utah commission.

There were informal discussions of THC and prohibited substances. Currently the PSUAC rule says if a prohibited substance is detected it is prohibited; the rule does not give any levels. There was much discussion.

Review Upcoming Events / Commission Assignments

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, September 5, 2014 (21+ Show) - The Rail Event Center - Salt Lake City, UT

FKF Boxing (Boxing) – Saturday, September 20, 2014 - The Complex, Salt Lake City, UT.
Commissioner Montanez will be in attendance.

Fight King (MMA) – Saturday, September 20, 2014 - Western Park Arena – Vernal, UT. Bill and Commissioner Daniels will be in attendance.

Elite Fight Night (MMA) – Friday, October 3, 2014 – The Complex – Salt Lake City, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Saturday, October 4, 2014 (All Ages Show) - Legacy Events Center - Farmington, UT

Muay Thai Institute (Muay Thai Boxing) – Saturday, October 18, 2014 – Muay Thai Institute – Salt Lake City, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, November 14, 2014 (21+ Show) – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

SteelFist (MMA) – Friday, December 12, 2014 (21+ Show) – The Rail Event Center – Salt Lake City, UT

The Clash MMA (MMA) - Saturday, December 13, 2014 – Eccles Ice Arena – North Logan, UT

Total Mayhem (MMA) – Wednesday, December 31, 2014 – Davis Conference Center – West Layton, UT

Bill reported that there is one promotion tentatively set for October 25 in Layton but, although Bill has the application and fee, the promoter has not confirmed that date with the venue. Bill may tell promoters that they will only be allowed 72 hours to confirm an event with the venue.

There are potential boxing events lining up but nothing has been confirmed.

Director's Report

Bill reported that there have been some issues with unsafe, inadequate padding and exposed hardware in cages. Commissioner Montanez said there should be a set time before an event that the ring/cage should be erected and the required equipment be provided. He mentioned there is a protocol about ring/cage inspection. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Reberg asked if cage side seating has been better. Bill and Commissioner Montanez agreed that it has been.

Bill also reported that there has been some communication with USA Boxing. There have been requests to do some pro/am boxing events which the Commission has not permitted due to problems with a prior pro/am event earlier in the year which Mr. Rick Montoya takes responsibility for. Bill is waiting for a response from USA Boxing to help establish protocols for sanctioning pro/am events in Utah. Mr. Montoya provided a summary of provisions for sanctioned amateur boxing events. There was discussion of minimum rounds and equal pro/am rounds. Mr. Montoya wishes the Commission expedite the protocol process as he wants to secure a date in the near future for approval of a pro/am boxing event. There was much discussion. Mr. Montoya was directed as to what he needs to provide for USA Boxing and the PSUAC. Bill indicated that the Commission will formalize the process in the next meeting.

Bill reported that he has received an appeal request from Kerry Lattimer. This appeal will be brought before the Commission at its next meeting.

Commissioner Montanez is working on a presentation for inspector training.

Bill reported that the Ringside Physician's Conference is scheduled for October 29 – November 1, 2014 in Las Vegas. He will encourage Utah ringside physician's to attend as well as a commissioner or two.

Bill also reported that there is a need for statute changes. Commissioner Daniels will work with Representative Curtis Oda to clean up the statute and give the Commission the flexibility to expand amateur MMA to sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year olds fighting health perspective. Commissioner Reberg requested a list of which commissions that allow sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years olds to fight in amateur MMA.

Commissioner Reberg suggested the attorney from the Attorney General's office also be involved in the drafting of the statute changes. Other changes include extending HIV testing from six (6) months to one (1) year. Commissioner Reberg asked if an agenda for the Ringside Physician's Conference is available. She wonders if the sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) year old participation issue will be discussed. She also asked where the Commission stands with the State physician board about baseline MRI's and the options they may be able to provide. Bill responded that the State physician board proposal is a work in progress and the Commission needs to decide which direction they want to go in with the board.

Open Discussion – No Action to Be Taken.

(Commissioner Daniels left the meeting at this point)

Mr. Scott Bowler asked about commission policies on amateur contracts. Bill said that some commissions prohibit contracts with amateur fighters. There was much discussion.

Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioner Reberg made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.